Supply of LPG in Assam

1699. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to ensure smooth supply of LPG in the country particularly in Assam; and

(b) the extent of demand and the supply of gas connections in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The demand of LPG customers registered with the Public Sector Oil Marketing companies in the country including the State of Assam, has been met by and large in full.

(b) The details of new LPG connections released by the PSU oil companies in the country during the last three years is given as under:

Year	LPG Enrolment (in lakhs)
1997-98	41.4
1998-99	42.3
1999-2000	90.3

Transportation of Natural Gas from Iran

1700. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the meeting of the Indo-Iranian Joint Committee held in Tehran on the feasibility of laying land pipe between Iran and India passing through Pakistan for transporting natural gas from Iran to India;

(b) whether it is a fact that Australian Oil giant BHP which conducted the pre-feasibility study of the land pipe for Iran has given favourable report; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that transportation of natural gas through land pipe would be cheaper, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The discussions of the Indo-Iran Joint Committee on Transmission of gas are still in the preliminary stage and all aspects of the pipeline options, including political, technical

and financing aspects are being examined. The Australian company, BHP Pvt. Ltd., has not made any presentation to the Committee. The economics of the different pipeline options including the onland pipeline option have not been determined as yet.

ISO 14000 certificate for Petrol Pumps in the National Capital Region

1701. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that all petrol pumps in the National Capital Region are certified for ISO 14000 environment standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the petrol pumps which are yet to be certified; and

(d) the steps being taken for ensuring world class environment standard by these petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The oil marketing companies have undertaken following steps for ensuring world class environmental standards:—

(i) During the handling of the petroleum products the companies take all possible steps to prevent any slippage of product into the sewerage system.

(ii) As per the pollution control norms, effluent treatment/intercepting facilities are generally provided at retail outlets with service station in order to separate oil from water before it is discharged into drains.

(iii) Environment friendly fuels are being introduced in phases to check the pollution levels.

(iv) Sale of loose 2T oil to 2/3 wheelers has been suspended and automatic dispensing of the same has been introduced to ensure proper quality of oil.

(v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has been introduced as auto fuel which is environment friendly.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.